CLAIMS

The following claims replace all prior versions of claims in the application:

1. (Currently amended) A method for treating a neurodegenerative condition of the brain comprising administering to the brain of a mammal ~~in need thereof~~ having a neurodegenerative condition a therapeutically effective amount of a selective alpha 2B or selective alpha 2B/2C adrenergic receptor agonist.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein said selective alpha 2B or selective alpha 2B/2C adrenergic receptor agonist is administered to the brain of said mammal by systemic delivery.

3. (Original) The method of claim 2 wherein administration of said selective alpha 2B or selective alpha 2B/2C adrenergic receptor agonist is effective to prevent death or degeneration of neurons projecting to or from an area of the brain of said mammal selected from the group consisting of the ventral tegmental area and the substantia nigra.

4. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein said neurodegenerative condition is Parkinson's disease.

5. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein said neurodegenerative condition is Alzheimer's disease.

6. (Original) The method of any one of claims 2-5 wherein said compound is an optionally substituted compound selected from the group consisting of an imidazoline, a thiourea, a thione, a quinoxaline and an imidazolone.

7. (Original) The method of claim 1 in which said selective alpha 2B or selective 2B/2C adrenergic receptor agonist compound is a specific alpha 2B or specific alpha 2B/2C adrenergic receptor agonist.

8. (Original) The method of claim 7 in which said compound is an optionally substituted compound selected from the group consisting of an imidazoline, a thiourea, a thione, a quinoxaline and an imidazolone.

9. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the amount of sedation accompanying administration of said drug at a given degree of therapeutic efficacy is less than that accompanying administration of a dose of dexmedetomidine at the same degree of therapeutic efficacy.

10. (Original) A method for preventing death or degeneration of neural cells projecting to or from a region of the brain selected from the group consisting of the substantia nigra, the locus ceruleus and the ventral tegmental area comprising administering to a mammal in need thereof a selective alpha 2B or 2B/2C adrenergic receptor agonist to said cells.

11. (Original) The method of claim 10, wherein the selective alpha 2 adrenergic receptor agonist is at least about 12 times more selective for an 2B or 2B/2C adrenergic receptor, in comparison to an alpha 1 receptor, than dexmedatomidine.

12. (Original) The method of claim 11 wherein said selective alpha 2 receptor agonist is a compound selected from the group of compounds consisting of an imidazoline, a thiourea, a thione, a quinoxaline and an imidazolone.

13. (Original) The method of any of claims 10-12 wherein said selective alpha 2B or alpha 2B/2C receptor agonist is a specific alpha 2 receptor agonist.

14. (Original) The method of any of claims 10-12 wherein said selective alpha 2B or alpha 2B/2C receptor agonist is a specific alpha 2B or alpha 2B/2C receptor agonist.

15. (Original) The method of claim 14 wherein said specific alpha 2B or alpha 2B/2C receptor agonist is a specific alpha 2 receptor agonist.